

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 /058 W

-----231236 010883 /11

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9509

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP; BC

SUBJECT: IMPENDING BOTSWANA-EEC BEEF CRISIS

1. DURING COURTESY CALL ON AMBASSADOR, EEC REP TO THE BLS COUNTRIES, DAVID ANDERSON, SAID HE THOUGHT THE AGREEMENT WITH BOTSWANA PERMITTING IMPORTATION OF BEEF INTO THE EEC WITH 95 PERCENT ABATEMENT OF LEVIES, MIGHT BE IN TROUBLE LONG BEFORE ITS EXPIRATION AT END OF 1977.

2. ACCORDING TO ANDERSON, ON APRIL 1ST THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WILL LIFT THE BEEF BAN (OWING TO LAST YEAR'S DROUGHT) AND THE EEC WOULD BE OPEN TO ALL BEEF EXPORTERS ON PAYMENT OF THE FULL LEVY. UNFORTUNATELY MANY EEC MEMBERS, THE FRENCH AND THE IRISH IN PARTICULAR, ARGUE THAT INASMUCH AS THE BOTSWANA AGREEMENT SPECIFICALLY REFERS TO THE BAN, THE AGREEMENT WILL LAPSE WITH REVOCATION OF THE BAN. BOTSWANA WOULD THEN FACE THE LEVY THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE AND COMPETE WITH ARGENTINA AND OTHER MORE POWERFUL BEEF PRODUCERS. NEVERTHELESS, ANDERSON SAID HE

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BELIEVED THAT THE COMMISSION SAW A MATTER OF HONOR AT STAKE AND EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO KEEP THE AGREEMENT WITH BOTSWANA UNTIL ITS EXPIRATION IN DECEMBER.

3. ANDERSON SAID HE FEARED THAT PROSPECTS WERE DIM FOR ANY LONG-TERM BOTSWANA-EEC ARRANGEMENT. PROBLEMS OF GETTING SETTLEMENT TIME AND TIME AGAIN WERE TOO

GREAT AND THOSE IN EEC WHO FOUGHT BATTLE FOR BOTSWANA WOULD TIRE IN FACE OF DETERMINED OPPOSITION WHICH SAW SPECIAL ARRANGMENTS AS UNDERMINING THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY. FOR OPPOSITION, IT WAS NOT QUESTION OF MONEY OR QUANTITIES BUT OF PRINCIPLE.

4. ANDERSON OPINED THAT IF BOTSWANA'S SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH EEC WERE LOST, RESULTING ECONOMIC DISASTER COULD TOPPLE GOVERNMENT.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY NOTES THAT ANDERSON HAS HAD TENDENCY IN PAST TO BE OVERLY PESSIMISTIC. NEVERTHELESS, GIVEN RELATIVE MAGNITUDE OF BEEF INDUSTRY HERE, THE DEPENDENCE OF THE AVERAGE MOTSWANA UPON IT, AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE GOB MUST LEAN ON THE FRAGILE, EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE EEC, POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT COUNTRY HEADING FOR SERIOUS ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, IF NOT IN APRIL THEN IN DECEMBER; AND THESE WOULD COME AT TIME WHEN BOTSWANA BESET WITH REFUGEES, BORDER CLASHES WITH RHODESIA, INCREASING DOMESTIC MILITANCY AND OTHER PROBLEM EMANATING FROM THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN MORASS. AS TO THE BEEF PROBLEM THREATENING TO TOPPLE THE GOVERNMENT, WE BELIEVE THIS IS AN OVERSTATEMENT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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